

Southwest Montana Veteran's Home, Update #14

9/8/2019

**By
Mike Lawson**

Greeting again to you the Veterans/Communities who are the six Counties in SW Montana who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the "SW MT Veterans Home. This is the 14th update on our Veterans Home.

Today is the 8th of September, 2019. Where did our summer go as our Montana Fall is knocking at our door. In spite of that our SW MT Veterans Home is progressing daily. Markovich Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascherman continues to coordinate with the different contractors doing different aspects of the site construction. Weather, contractors losing some of their work-force who have left to return to college or just getting enough manpower to man the different jobs are some of the challenges being deal with. The economy is booming right now with a lot of building projects going on, in this area especially. This affects new construction site jobs, like our Vet Home, but these site construction workers are very skilled, hard workers and are getting a lot done.

The Community Building will see the carpenters who worked on Cottage #2 this past week, back framing more walls and will probably get the steel columns, (fabricated by Hawe Steel in Butte), put in place. This will then allow for the ceiling beam placement at the appropriate time. It will be the first building to be completed and one we're keeping a close eye on.

Cottage #1 is ready for framing but on hold until the other four Cottages have gone through all the construction stages leading to their slab floors being finished.

Cottage #2 is ready for it's slab pour and finish. Mike Ascherman said weather could be a big factor as to when that will happen this week due to rain not being good for a good slab floor finish. It's important to have a good finish, so it could be delayed for a day without rain. Zemljak Excavating did a lot in backfill/compacting, putting the self compacting gravel in, etc.. They also dug the ditches for the sewer line and both water lines. All these lines can be buried in the same ditch but must be buried with a specified distance between each of them.

Cottage #3 has the wall forms erected by Phillips Concrete and they should be poured this week. After this the interior form walls will be erected/poured and then all the different construction stages to the final slab pour stage will take place.

Cottage #4 should have the footing forms in this week or next week for sure and then the concrete can be poured into them.

Cottage #5 is seeing Zemljak Excavating moving the dirt off the corner of that site so the footings can be laid out and dug. Permission was given for them to move this dirt to the adjacent property to the north which is owned by the Harringtons who donated our Veteran's Home site land to us. This family continues to be generous in helping to see our SWMTH built. Many thanks to them for sure.

The "Viewing Hooch" has more furniture in the way of chairs. Window Opening Glass was donated and put in by Butte Glass. This building is getting cozier and cozier. "It's ready for your coming to visit". The next item is to get an electric extension cord hooked up and get a coffee pot perking.

Another point of interest is that Mike is planning for O'Keefe Drilling to drill a well on site which is designated on the prints as an irrigation well for our Veteran Home landscaping.

The puzzle piece I mentioned last week about the State of Montana's responsibility for our Vet Home, I'll now briefly address. (1) the state is the acting landlord for the facility with the Contractor who will be operating the day to day management of our SWMTVH. (2) The state will maintain a full-time, onsite staff person to oversee the operation of the facility, making sure the contract requirements are met. (3) consider requests from the foundation and give approval or deny approval depending upon request. (4) Provide input to the Foundation into the needs of the facility and its' requests. It's a big plus having both the State and the Foundation working together for the best interests of the Veteran Residents of SWMTVH.

I'll close for now and wish you all a great week ahead.